

## STANDING WITH ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my unwavering support for the United States' greatest ally in the Middle East and the region's only democracy, Israel.

When I visited the region, I saw firsthand the proximity of the danger Israelis face on a daily basis.

With the Gaza Strip controlled by the Iranian-funded terror group Hamas, rockets are always pointing at the Jewish state. It is estimated that the militant group has more than 30,000 rockets and mortars at their disposal.

For the past week, Israel and its people have been bombarded by more than 3,000 rockets launched from within Gaza. Thank goodness for the Iron Dome, which, despite being overwhelmed, saved countless lives.

While some on the other side of the aisle and in the media attempt to draw a moral parallel between Hamas and Israel, there is simply no comparison to be made.

As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "You cannot equate a democracy that values life with a terror organization that glorifies death."

Israel has an absolute right to defend itself, and while they make every effort to keep Palestinian civilians from harm, Hamas continues to intentionally target population centers, seeking death and destruction.

Hamas is not interested in peace. They are not interested in working toward a lasting solution. Their only objective is to eliminate the Jewish state.

Why some would choose to back Hamas despite its atrocious human rights record is beyond me. Why back a regime that stifles free speech, prosecutes and assaults the press, treats women as second-class citizens, and has laws on the books that condemn its own citizens to death simply for selling land to a Jewish person?

Madam Speaker, it is mind-boggling.

I stand with Israel, and in doing so, I stand for peace.

## CONGRATULATING GRACE CHRISTIAN GOLF TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, author and avid golf fan P.G. Wodehouse once remarked: Golf "is the infallible test. The man who can go into a patch of rough alone, with the knowledge that only God is watching him, and play his ball where it lies is the man who will serve you faithfully and well."

Fittingly, I rise today to recognize Grace Christian School of Staunton, whose golf team won its first Virginia Association of Christian Athletics State championship.

The Warriors shot an 18-hole total of 355 in the championship tournament at the Club at Ironwood to overcome its closest competitor by 32 strokes.

Caleb Maas led the Warriors with an impressive 86, while Preston Fitzgerald and Maddie Helmick each shot a pair of 87s, with Isaiah Farlow carding a 95.

Maas, Fitzgerald, and Helmick were also named to the all-State team for their performances throughout the season.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the athletes, coaches, and staff on an excellent season. I wish them all the best of luck moving forward. And keep hitting them straight.

## NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. Bordeaux) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, like so many of us in this Chamber, I spend a lot of time on the road driving from event to event.

As someone who represents the metro Atlanta area, I have spent far more hours than I care to admit sitting on I-85 in bumper-to-bumper traffic. My staff have all had the experience of being on the phone with me as I pull off the road and try to find a spot with a strong signal in order to call into events because there is just no way I will make it in time with all the traffic.

Congestion is one of the issues we all hear about with frequency. It is not a Republican issue or a Democratic issue. It is a question I get frequently, regardless of whether I am at a town-hall, speaking to a Chamber of Commerce, or visiting a small business: What is being done to ease congestion?

This question is particularly important as we continue to have a national conversation on infrastructure. Having spent my career in public policy and public finance, I know how important it is that we make smart investments today to set us up for success tomorrow.

That is why recently I rolled out my infrastructure agenda. I call it FutureFit The Suburbs.

FutureFit The Suburbs is a vision to address our growing needs in the suburbs to make smart investments now to prepare for the next century, from preparing for the impact of climate change to building the transit system of tomorrow.

This agenda focuses on the needs of fast-growing suburbs, recognizing the need for transit and congestion relief in order to maintain economic viability while addressing the climate crisis, and doing all of it in a way that leverages public-private partnerships in a fiscally responsible manner.

The key is to do well by doing good. This initial launch of FutureFit The Suburbs contains four initiatives.

First, I am proud to be introducing a new piece of bipartisan legislation today, the Build Up the Suburbs Act, along with Congressman CARLOS GIMENEZ from Florida, and my Georgia colleague, Congresswoman LUCY MCBATH.

Imagine a regional bus rapid transit system that would run along our major highways and express lanes, developing an electric bus equivalent of commuter

rail to help people get from suburban hubs to major commercial hubs while skipping the traffic. The Build Up the Suburbs Act would fund exactly that.

The next time you need to go to the airport, wouldn't it be easier if you didn't have to budget in an extra hour or two just to get there?

Tomorrow, I will be introducing the National and Regional Greenways Act to provide funding for the construction and expansion of greenways across the country, corridors of land connecting disparate communities with beautiful recreational space and environmentally friendly travel routes, thereby reducing congestion and emissions.

This program would support projects like the visionary Chattahoochee River Greenway, a proposed multiuse path that would run along the Chattahoochee River in Georgia.

Beyond immediate transit priorities, FutureFit The Suburbs focuses on how we can be smart in leveraging the power of public-private partnerships to maximize available resources. For example, as more and more shopping goes online, retail malls, and the large plots of land that they sit on, are going unoccupied and unused, taking up valuable real estate. Through low-interest and guaranteed loan programs, these areas can be restored in a way that serves the community.

Finally, creating a national infrastructure bank would provide Federal seed money to leverage significant private sector investment in major infrastructure projects. Private investment is on the sidelines and looking to invest in our roads, bridges, broadband, and electric charging infrastructure.

Change is coming, whether we like it or not. We can make smart investments now that enhance our quality of life, or we can spend a lot more time, money, and effort retrofitting the same projects years down the road.

By investing now, we can help slow the effects of climate change, create jobs, and position the suburbs for success in the years to come.

## CELEBRATING JULIA TUCKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure being here today. As we say in east Tennessee, you class up the joint. Thank you for allowing me to be here.

Today, I rise to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of my dearest friends, Julia Tucker, 90 years old.

Julia has served the Knoxville community in many different ways over the years. Julia was the first woman to chair the Knoxville City School Board, where she served with my daddy.

Julia is a force to be reckoned with, and she fights for things that are important to her. Julia once saved her unconscious neighbors' lives during a gas leak by dragging them out of their house.